

**REBELLION REFLECTED IN VERONICA ROTH'S
DIVERGENT (2011): A MARXIST THEORY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
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by:

IRFAN REJIANSYAH

A320120220

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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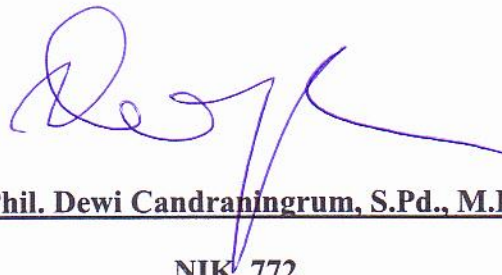
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PUBLICATION ARTICLE

Written by:

IRFAN REJIANSYAH
A320120220

**Approved to examined by
The Consultant:**



Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S.Pd., M.Ed.
NIK. 772

ACCEPTANCE

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By:

IRFAN REJIANSYAH
A320120220

Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners
School of Teacher Training Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
on December 2016

The Board of Examiners

1. **Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S.Pd., M.Ed.** (

(First Examiner)

2. **Dr. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum.**

(Second Examiner)

3. **Titis Setyabudi, SS., M.Hum.**

(Third Examiner)



Dean,

Prof. Dr. Harun Joko Pravitno, M.Hum.
NIP. 196505288199303 1001

TESTIMONY

The undersigned below,

Name : Irfan Rejiansyah

NIM : A320120220

Program : Department of English Education

Title : Rebellion Reflected in Veronica Roth's *Divergent* (2011): A Marxist Theory

I declare that in this publication article, there is no plagiarism of the previous literary works which have been raised to obtain bachelor degree of a certain university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

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Irfan Rejiansyah
A320120220

REBELLION REFLECTED IN VERONICA ROTH'S DIVERGENT (2011): A MARXIST THEORY

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan pemberontakan yang terjadi pada novel The Divergent (2011) karya Veronica Roth dengan menggunakan pendekatan Marxist. Novel The Divergent (2011) dianalisa dengan mengacu pada dua objek: pertama yaitu analisa yang berdasar elemen struktural, dan yang kedua yaitu analisa mengenai rebellion dengan menggunakan pendekatan Marxist. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan dua sumber data. Yang pertama yaitu novel The Divergent (2011) karya Veronica Roth sebagai sumber utama. Sumber data kedua diambil dari buku, biografi penulis, jurnal, sumber internet yang berhubungan dengan penelitian. Dua jenis data diperoleh melalui perpustakaan yang dianalisa menggunakan analisa deskriptif. Berdasarkan penelitian tersebut, peneliti menyimpulkan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama yaitu elemen struktural novel yang diperoleh melalui karakter dan karakterisasi, seting tempat dan waktu, plot, sudut pandang, dan tema yang tersusun menjadi satu sebagai cerita dalam novel. Kedua, yang berdasar pada pendekatan Marxist dalam materialisme dialektis, sejarah materialisme, perjuangan kelas, keterasingan, revolusi dan pemberontakan yang terjadi pada karakter utama dan karakter lainnya dalam novel The Divergent (2011).

Kata kunci: pemberontakan, elemen struktural novel, pendekatan Marxist

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to reveal the rebellion in The Divergent (2011) novel by Veronica Roth by using Marxist approach. The Divergent (2011). The analysis is done by determining two objects: the first is analyzing the novel based on the structural elements, and the second is analyzing the problem of rebellion by using Marxist approach. This research is a descriptive qualitative research. There are two types of data sources. The source of primary data is Veronica Roth's The Divergent (2011) novel. The secondary data sources are from books, biography of the author, journals, and internet sources related to the study. The two kinds of data collected through library research and analyzed with descriptive analysis. Based on the research, the researcher draws the following conclusions. The first, the structural element of the novel described the character and characterization, setting of place and time, plot, point of view, and theme. It formed into one unity in a novel story. The second, based on Marxist approach in dialectical, historical, class struggle, alienation, revolution and the rebellion was revealed with other descriptions of Marxist the major character and the others reflected in The Divergent (2011) novel.

Keywords: rebellion, structural elements of novel, Marxist approach

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Divergent* is an interesting fantasy novel. These novels are interesting to be read and also to be a research object. As far as the researcher concerns, the research on The *Divergent* has been conducted by the students around the world.

The *Divergent* novel takes place in a post apocalyptic, nation named Chicago. The government of Chicago divided the society into five factions in hopes of creating a better, more peaceful world than the one that existed before. The city of Chicago is said to be abandoned and in ruins due to the collapse of the last society, but the new society is currently in the process of renovating the city from the heart of the city outwards. All events in the book take place in the five factions including Abnegation, Erudite, Dauntless, Amity, and Candor.

The issues of Rebellion the major character in The *Divergent* novel is reflected well. The major character named Beatrice Prior, born in the Abnegation family. Abnegation is a Faction which more cares about the others than themselves. This Faction always helps the other factions. The members of Abnegation get discriminated by the other factions, as the other factions was affected by articles that have been released by Erudite. those article filled with slander about abnegation.

Beatrice felt that she doesn't fit with her faction. In a country where Beatrice lived, had a rules that said that any citizens who already seventeen years old are required to take the exam. Exam that determines where the citizens are in a faction should be. Beatrice decided to leave her old faction, but in her new faction she's got discrimination from the other factions.

2. LITERARY REVIEW

The *Divergent* is an interesting fantasy novel. These novels are interesting to be read and also to be a research object. As far as the researcher concerns, the research on The *Divergent* has been conducted by the students.

The first research is created by Larasati (2016) from State Muhammadiyah Surakarta University at Sukoharjo with title "Pessimistic View Of The Future Of Genetic Engineering In Veronica Roth's *Divergent* Trilogy Novel (2011-2013): A Sociological Approach." This research belongs to qualitative research. The primary data of this research is *Divergent* Trilogy by Veronica Roth, while the secondary data of this research

is other sources related to the study, such as: virtual sources and other printed materials that support this research. The researcher draws three conclusions in this research. *First*, the Pessimistic View of the Future of Genetic Engineering is characterized by such qualities as negative perception, anxiety, sadness, despair, doubtfulness, and low self-esteem. *Second*, the Pessimistic View of the Future of Genetic Engineering is depicted mainly through the plot illustrating that society cannot develop naturally, society wants equal treatment between genetic damage and genetic pure, society commit revenge to the bureau, and genetic damage is always accused of war, rebellion, or the kind of bad action. *Third*, the underlying reason of the author to give concern in futuristic issues is that the author wants to raise the awareness of the need for wise usage of science and technology, especially genetic engineering.

2.1 Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the researcher takes the problem statement is “How is the Rebellion reflected at Veronica Roth’s *Divergent* (2011) novel?”

2.2 Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses in analyzing Rebellion reflected in Veronica Roth’s *The Divergent* novel published in 2011 using marxist Theory.

2.3 Underlying Theory

This chapter deals with underlying theory the researcher presents the theories that support to analyze Rebellion phenomenon at *The Divergent* novel by Veronica Roth. The theory consists of Marxist Theory, which is appropriate to analyze the problem in this novel *Divergent*.

2.3.1 Notion of Marxist

Marxist theory explain that social theory about human live in the world. Marxist theorists tend to focus their interpretations on considering how literary texts depict class oppression, strife, and social inequality to serve critique elements of capitalistic Western life. Marxist theorists also consider how literary texts subvert even overturn ordinary forms of social and political order then it will present new forms of social and political perception and interaction. According to Suseno (2001:5) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between

economic, social, and political concept. Marxism is one of the components in the communist system ideology and marxism is different with communism.

2.3.2 Major Principle of Marxist Theory

2.3.2.1 Dialectical Materialism

According to Elster (1986:47) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Dialectical is a term from ancient Greek. It is a concept that sees conflict, antagonism, and contradiction is condition that needed to reach some certain result. While materialism means belief that only money, possessions, and something can be seen are important. So dialectical materialism is the process that build reality through the process of contradiction to reach the absolute truth and movement.

2.3.2.2 Historical Materialism

According to Engels on Prihana India thesis, the universal or general is not some mystical, immanent reality existing in a different sphere from the concrete particulars.

The suprastructure economy is reflected in suprastructure of social politic and ideology. But the reality that determined the structure of society and the development in history is the structure of social classes (Suseno, 2001:1350).

Slaughter (1980:197) explains about identical that a process and phenomena. Identical is the individual exists only in the connection to universal. The universal exists only in the individual and individual. Every individual is universal.

According to Karl Mark view, historical materialism is a term that contains about society and history. Historical materialism is marxist theory that tend to focus on the social development based on economic circumstance. The structure of society and the development in history are determined by the structural of social classes.

2.3.2.3 Class Struggle

According to Sati Nurchotimah on her thesis: 16, Class struggle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class againsts the oppressor. It focuses on the way the class oppressed face the oppressor. The reason behind this class of struggle is economic. Because economic can determine the society class of level such as the elite (the aristocrats and the bourgeois), the proletariat. The oppressed that make the proletariat struggle is they work for the elite but it make them exploited. Class of

struggle is the active expression of the theoretical class of conflict that is looked from any socialist perspective.

2.3.2.4 Alienation

According to Suseno (2001:88) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Karl Mark views human is alienated from his society because of his work in capitalist economy. The basic human alienation is work. Because the fundamental human activity is work and work makes human being real.

Human nature is aspect of alienation. Human work to appropriate their needs. Human is different from animal because human need to produce foods or goods by work. Basically alienation is happen both in human and world which it is separated from object (Fargacs, 1986:63).

2.3.2.5 Revolution

The result of class struggle is revolution. Revolution is an indication to the society which survived from crisis (Permanasari, 2011:18). Social revolution is the rapid and fundamental changes of society and class structure of a country. In the other word according to (Theda Skocpol, 1979:2), Social revolution coupled with the rebellion of the lower classes or the oppressed class. the lower classes or proletariat change the social structure from old into the new one. By the revolution that is made by the lower classes, the lower classes sweep the class stratification to stop discrimination, exploration, then make a new society for a better life.

2.3.3 Notion of Rebellion

Rebellion is a reaction but not an action. The rebellion can occur when the cultural and the legitimate means are rejected; individuals create their own goals by protest or do rebellion. The act of rebellion is not just refusing; it demands the placement of morality even to life itself. It becomes a struggle to make a change. The rebel identifies with good or bad and suffering because a dominant force. Therefore, the act of rebelling demonstrates a willingness to sacrifice life itself for common good important than one's destiny.

Rebellion is violent action organized by a group of people who are trying to change the political system in their country. (Jeremy M. Weinstein, Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence, 2006).

The methods can be peaceful, such as civil disobedience, civil resistance and nonviolent resistance, or violent, such as terrorism, sabotage and guerrilla. Those who participate in rebellions, especially if they are armed, are known as "rebels". An armed but limited rebellion is an insurrection and if the established government does not recognize the rebels as belligerents then they are insurgents and the revolt is an insurgency. In a larger conflict the rebels may be recognized as belligerents without their government being recognized by the established government, in which case the conflict becomes a civil war. (Jeremy M. Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*, 2006).

Rebellion is the epitome of 'cool'; that idea of pushing the boundaries, disrupting the norm and flouting public opinion in the pursuit of something greater. For this reason we often idolize the rebel. But more than often it is not the act of rebellion itself, but the pretense of it that becomes the main focus for attention in the eyes of the wider public. (Jeremy M. Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*, 2006).

True rebellion is rarely considered cool at the time. That's the point. Opposing a dominant cultural norm or social issue should, by its very nature, be divisive and controversial. Because standing up against the status quo is hard, it's alienating and it takes commitment and sacrifice. Only in the off chance that all that sacrifice pays off, is the stamp of 'cool' administered anachronistically. For people who really rebel are never lauded or praised at the time they act, but mostly criticized, oppressed and discredited in the public's eyes. Pushing against the status quo means the majority will hate you for it, for being a vessel of uncomfortable truths or instigator of unwelcome change. Real-time rebels are usually punished, isolated and ignored for their dissension. It is only when we recognize their bravery, and willingness to be alienated and hated because of their belief in a cause that we later recognize to be virtuous that they truly earn our admiration. (Jeremy M. Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*, 2006).

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data sources need literary data. This kind of research has purpose to analyze literature using psychoanalytic approach. The first step of conducting the research is determining the type of the study. The second is determining the object of the study. Then the third is determining data and data sources. The fourth is determining the technique of data collection, and the fifth is determining technique of data analysis. The object of the study of the research is *The Divergent* (2011) novel, written by Veronica Roth.

4. RESEARCH FINDING

The novel is analyzed by using Marxist theory. Marxist consist of five major issues. There are: Dialectical materialism, Historical materialism, Alienation, Class struggle, and Revolution. Veronica Roth as the author of the *Divergent* (2011) described it systematically. She showed the dialectical materialism by reflecting the thesis, antithesis, and synthesis. She showed the process of alienation happened to the major character of the novel. She describes the oppressing and the oppressed class that indicates class struggle, and the end of the story she closed the with revolution process.

4.1 Dialectical Materialism

Dialectical is a term from ancient Greek. It is a concept that sees conflict, antagonism, and contradiction is condition that needed to reach some certain result. While materialism means belief that only money, possessions, and something can be seen are important. So dialectical materialism is the process that build reality through the process of contradiction to reach the absolute truth and movement.

In Veronica Roth's *Divergent* novel reflects the process of dialectical materialism. Thesis comes when Erudite wanted to grab the authority in the government by releasing some article without proofs. Erudite releasing about Abnegation leader, Marcus Eaton who abused his children that caused him transferred into Dauntless.

Erudite true intention finally showed when Jeanine made new serum. She wants to control The Dauntless member to annihilated Abnegation, and took the authority in the government.

4.2 Historical Materialism

According to Karl Mark view, historical materialism is a term that contains about society and history. Historical materialism is marxist theory that tend to focus on the social development based on economic circumstance. The structure of society and the development in history are determined by the structural of social classes.

The definition of historical materialism can be reflected in character and characterization, setting and style. The character in *Divergent* divided into five factions. There are five factions in this novel, Amity, Erudite, Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless. But there are only two factions that never have the same arguments, they are Abnegation and Erudite. Erudite always told the untrue story about the Abnegation, because they want to take anything that belong to Abnegations. Erudite releasing some article without fact, because they wanted to take the authority in the government.

This situation affected to the major character, especially Beatrice Prior. Because she came from Abnegation, she had to face the social discrimination from the other members when she in was in the Dauntless to complete her initiation. She was called with “Stiff”, a nickname for someone who came from Abnegation.

4.3 Class Struggle

According to Sati Nurchotimah on her thesis: 16, Class struggle focuses on the struggle of the oppressed class againsts the oppressor. It focuses on the way the class oppressed face the oppressor. The reason behind this class of struggle is economic. Because economic can determine the society class of level such as the elite (the aristocrats and the bourgeois), the proletariat. The oppressed that make the proletariat struggle is they work for the elite but it make them exploited.

In the Marxist perspective society was divided into two classes. The Bourgeois and The Proletariat, The Oppressing class and The Opressed class. In The *Divergent*, Oppressing Class was reflected with Erudite, Opressed Class reflected with Abnegation. Erudite controlled Dauntless under the simulation. Erudite developed new serum which can control and used The Dauntless members to attacked The Abnegation. Erudite wanted a life in wealth, comfort and prosperity by taking the authority of the government. Jeanine as the leader of the Erudite said that Erudite was bored with the Abnegation leadership, they want to improve the government better than before, but they use many tricks such as

released some fake articles to discriminate Abnegation, and made a new serum to control all the Dauntless members to attack the Abnegation.

4.4 Alienation

According to Suseno (2001:88) on Sati Nurchotimah thesis, Karl Mark views human is alienated from his society because of his work in capitalist economy. The basic human alienation is work. Because the fundamental human activity is work and work makes human being real.

The process of Alienation was reflected in the Veronica Roth's *Divergent* novel. The alienation process was reflected by Beatrice Prior as the major character. When Beatrice was in the Abnegation, she was alienated from her family, environments and her friends. She was different, she couldn't accept Abnegation value in her life, she was too selfish, and she was different from her family, so Beatrice decided to transfer to Dauntless.

4.5 Revolution

Revolution is an indication to the society which survived from crisis (Permanasari, 2011:18). Social revolution is the rapid and fundamental changes of society and class structure of a country. In the other word according to (Theda Skocpol, 1979:2), Social revolution coupled with the rebellion of the lower classes or the oppressed class. the lower classes or proletariat change the social structure from old into the new one. By the revolution that is made by the lower classes, the lower classes sweep the class stratification to stop discrimination, exploration, then make a new society for a better life.

In The *Divergent* novel, the revolution was reflected at the end of the story. It was showed the process of the oppressed class against the oppressing class. The process was reflected by Tris as the major character. With her father, brother, and Marcus, they came to The Dauntless headquarters, build a plan and tried to saving Tobias and stop The Dauntless attacking on abnegation because of the new serum's effect.

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

After analyzing the *Divergent* novel using Marxist theory, the researcher founds that Veronica Roth as the author, showed her imagination about social live in the future. She gives her point of view about people personality from their aptitudes by reflecting in

the character of the story. She reflects the whole of the Notion of Marxist, dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle and revolution.

The Dialectical Materialism in the story consist of thesis, antithesis and synthesis. Thesis comes when Erudite wanted to grab the authority in the government by releasing some article without proofs. Erudite releasing about Abnegation leader, Marcus Eaton who abused his children that caused him transferred into Dauntless. Erudite true intention finally showed when Jeanine made new serum. She wants to control The Dauntless member to annihilated Abnegation, and took the authority in the government.

Divergent also reflected Historical Materialism, the definition of historical materialism can be reflected in character and characterization, setting and style. The character in *Divergent* divided into five factions. There are five factions in this novel, Amity, Erudite, Candor, Abnegation, Dauntless. But there are only two factions that never have the same arguments, they are Abnegation and Erudite. Erudite always told the untrue story about the Abnegation, because they want to take anything that belong to Abnegations. Erudite releasing some article without fact, because they wanted to take the authority in the government.

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The Alienation process also happen in *Divergent*, The alienation process was reflected by Beatrice Prior as the major character. When Beatrice was in the Abnegation, she was alienated from her family, environments and her friends. She was different, she couldn't accept Abnegation value in her life, she was too selfish, and she was different from her family, so Beatrice decided to transfer to Dauntless.

The Revolution show up at the end of the story. It was showed the process of The Oppressed Class against The Oppressing Class. The process was reflected by Tris as the major character. With her father, brother, and Marcus, they came to The Dauntless headquarters, build a plan and tried to saving Tobias and stop The Dauntless attacking on Abnegation because of the new serum's effect.

The study is The *Divergent* (2011) novel, the researcher finds many moral values from the novel. The novel tells about the struggle of Beatrice Prior to bring out her confidence and rebell to injustice. She brave to take of choice, because she believes that she will get happiness and prosperity for all people. Same with this our life, people should maintain justice, togetherness, peace, and their happiness. If they lost all of it, will cause of trouble and chaos. For all students, this case was important to be an advisor. Nothing was impossible if try to get it. If we do anything to reach with sincerity and patient

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